

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Opening and closing latch device, adapted to facilitate closing and/or opening of a movable part of furniture with respect to the furniture, comprising:
  - a container defining an internal cavity with at least one open side;
  - a sliding guide;
  - a sliding element, placed in the sliding guide and comprising a ~~substantially~~ rigid hook at a first end, suitable to catch a hooking element integral with said movable part,
  - an elastic device, placed between the sliding element and the container, so that the elastic device exert an elastic force on the sliding element suitable to make it slide, reacting on said container,
  - a track, placed on one side of the sliding guide, with surface of the bottom defining a cam path,
  - a tappet device, integral with the sliding element, suitable to travel along the cam path, so as to define a number of positions of the sliding element, corresponding to a release position, a lock position and two intermediate opening and closing positions of said movable part,
  - ~~and in that~~ wherein substantially all of the sliding guide is inclined of an angle ( $\alpha$ ) with respect to the direction along which a closing and opening movement takes place between the movable part and the furniture.
2. (Previously Presented) Latch device according the claim 1, wherein the container comprises an insert substantially triangular in shape, one side of which defines a side of the sliding guide.
3. (Previously Presented) Latch device according the claim 2, wherein the track is provided on the side of the sliding guide constituted by said insert.
4. (Previously Presented) Latch device according the claim 3, wherein the container comprises a cover, forming one of the sides of the cavity, and a base with a connection device suitable to join the cover to the base.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Latch device according to the claim 4, Opening and closing latch device, adapted to facilitate closing and/or opening of a movable part of furniture with respect to the furniture, comprising:~~

a container defining an internal cavity with at least one open side;

a sliding guide;

a sliding element, placed in the sliding guide and comprising a rigid hook at a first end, suitable to catch a hooking element integral with said movable part;

an elastic device, placed between the sliding element and the container, so that the elastic device exert an elastic force on the sliding element suitable to make it slide, reacting on said container;

a track, placed on one side of the sliding guide, with surface of the bottom defining a cam path;

a tappet device, integral with the sliding element, suitable to travel along the cam path, so as to define a number of positions of the sliding element, corresponding to a release position, a lock position and two intermediate opening and closing positions of said movable part;

wherein the sliding guide is inclined of an angle ( $\alpha$ ) with respect to the direction along which a closing and opening movement takes place between the movable part and the furniture;

wherein the tappet device is formed of a ball held in pressure against the bottom of the track by a spring.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) A latch device comprising:

a container defining an internal cavity with at least one open side;

a sliding guide inclined of an angle ( $\alpha$ ) with respect to the direction along which a closing and opening movement takes place between the movable part and the furniture;

a sliding element, placed in the sliding guide and comprising a substantially rigid hook at a first end, suitable to catch a hooking element integral with said movable part,

an elastic device, placed between the sliding element and the container, so that the elastic device exert an elastic force on the sliding element suitable to make it slide, reacting on said container,

a track, placed on one side of the sliding guide, with a surface defining a cam path; and

a tappet device, integral with the sliding element, suitable to travel along the cam path defining positions of the sliding element comprising a release position, a lock position and one or more intermediate opening and closing positions of the movable part, wherein the tappet device is formed of a ball held in pressure against the track by a spring.

8-13. (Cancelled).